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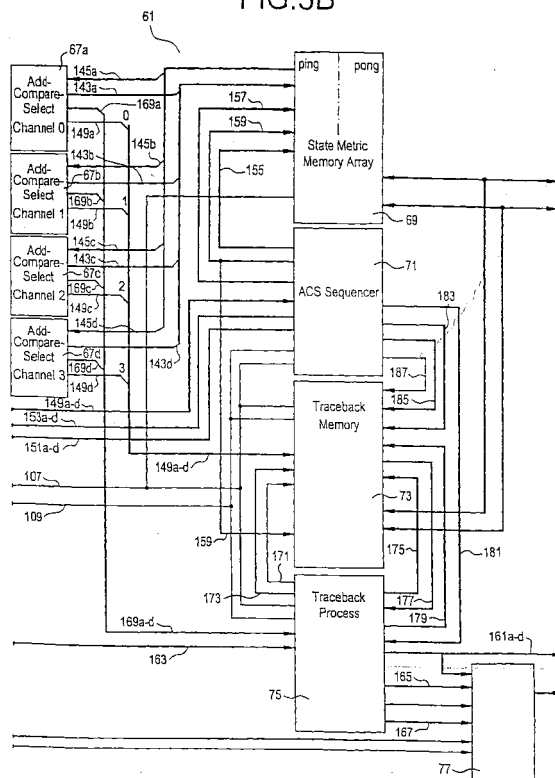
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(54) **Multichannel viterbi decoder**

(57) The present invention provides a method for simultaneously receiving and processing multiple channels of data at independent rates which share a same frequency spectrum, comprising the steps of:

receiving a multichannel data communication signal having multiple data channels at independent data rates on the same frequency spectrum;
separating selected channels of data of the received signal and identifying the data rate for each channel;
decoding each separated channel of the received signal at an assigned data rate, said decoding step using a common decoding memory; and
directing each separated channel to a different decoding means and assigning each decoding means a data rate responsive to the identification of data rates by said separating step.

FIG.3B





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| Place of search The Hague | | Date of completion of the search 22 March 2005 | Examiner Koukourlis, S |
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